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AMSAT NEWS SERVICE
ANS-068

The AMSAT News Service bulletins are a free, weekly news and information service of AMSAT, The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. ANS publishes news related to Amateur Radio in Space including reports on the activities of a worldwide group of Amateur Radio operators who share an active interest in designing, building, launching and communicating through analog and digital Amateur Radio satellites.

The news feed on http://www.amsat.org publishes news of Amateur Radio in Space as soon as our volunteers can post it.

Please send any amateur satellite news or reports to:
ans-editor at amsat.org.

You can sign up for free e-mail delivery of the AMSAT News Service Bulletins via the ANS List; to join this list see:
http://www.amsat.org/mailman/listinfo/ans

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ANS-068 AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletins

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 068.01
>From AMSAT HQ KENSINGTON, MD.
DATE 2020 Mar 08
To All RADIO AMATEURS
BID: $ANS-068.01

Welcome Back XW-2D

XW-2D has come back from its apparent issues and is back in action. No official report for the satellite owner, but reports from operators all over the world have shown the satellite is back in operation:

Frequency:
UPLINK LSB 435.210 MHz to 435.230 MHZ
DOWNLINK USB 145.860 MHz to 145.880 MHZ

Make sure to post your reception reports for all satellites at
https://www.amsat.org/status/

[ANS thanks Hasan Schiers, N0AN, for the above information]

PSAT3 Launch CANCELED

Four days from Shipping PSAT3 to Kodiak for launch, the launch has been canceled.

The launch was part of the DARPA LAUNCH CHALLENGE:
https://darpalaunchchallenge.org/index.html

The challenge (and $10m prize) was for any launch provider to deliver a rocket with only 30 days notice of what payloads they would have and where they would launch from. And then to do it again only 30 days later. We were on the second launch.

But on 2 March the third attempt by the launch provider was scrubbed at T-9 minutes and was not resolved until the launch window (and DARPA challenge deadline) had passed. Therefore the CHALLENGE is over, there was no winner, and we lost the launch.

So, if anyone hears of a rocket that needs a CUBESAT PPOD backup replacement, we have one: http://aprs.org/psat3.html

[ANS thanks Bob, WB4APR for the above information]

AMSAT Academy to be Held Prior to Dayton Hamvention

Come join us the day before Hamvention, for AMSAT® Academy – a unique opportunity to learn all about amateur radio in space and working FM, linear transponder, and digital satellites currently in orbit.

AMSAT® Academy will be held Thursday, May 14, 2020, from 9:00am to 5:00pm, at the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) Clubhouse, located at 6619 Bellefontaine Rd, Dayton, Ohio.

The $85 registration fee includes:

- Full day of instruction, designed for both beginners and advanced amateur radio satellite operators, and taught by some of the most accomplished AMSAT operators.
- Digital copy of Getting Started with Amateur Satellites, 2020 Edition ($15 value)
- One-Year, AMSAT® Basic Membership ($44 value)
- Pizza Buffet Lunch
- Invitation to the Thursday night AMSAT® get together at Ticket Pub and Eatery in Fairborn.

Registration closes May 8, 2020. No sign ups at the door. No refunds, no cancellations.

Registrations may be purchased on the AMSAT store at
https://www.amsat.org/product/2020-amsat-academy-registration/

[ANS thanks Robert Bankston, KE4AL, Vice President - User Services for the above information]

The 23cm Satellite Band is Under Scrutiny in Europe

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 1 committee is already actively participating in the regulatory work taking place in the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) to consider coexistence between the secondary amateur and amateur satellite services and the primary radio navigation satellite service, in the 1.2 GHz band. The principal issue is Europe's Galileo system of global navigation satellites.

The Galileo services are delivered in a number of bands and one occupies the 1260-1300 MHz band. The Galileo team has witnessed interference from amateur TV transmissions which resulted in station shut down and has experienced interference from high power EME operations too.

Work is at an early stage and the IARU will continue to try tp minimise the impact on amateur operations however it is likely that some changes will be necessary to the way we use the band.

The topic is closely related to the agenda of the next World Radiocommunication Conference coming up in 2013 (WRC-23) at which representatives of the United Nations countries who are members of the International Telecommunication Union will agree on coordinated radio regulations.

For more information, see https://tinyurl.com/tcrdm4j

[ANS thanks Jacques Verleijen, ON4AVJ, and the IARU Region 1 Newsletter for the above information]

Replacing the International Space Station?

Aboard the International Space Station (ISS), humanity has managed to maintain an uninterrupted foothold in low Earth orbit for just shy of 20 years. But as the saying goes, what goes up must eventually come down. The ISS is at too low of an altitude to remain in orbit indefinitely, and core modules of the structure are already operating years beyond their original design lifetimes. As difficult a decision as it might be for the countries involved, in the not too distant future the $150 billion orbiting outpost will have to be abandoned.

Naturally there’s some debate as to how far off that day is. NASA officially plans to support the Station until at least 2024, and an extension to 2028 or 2030 is considered very likely. However, one commercial partner is betting on a longer-term future. Axiom has been selected by NASA to develop a new habitable module for the U.S. side of the Station by 2024.

While the agreement technically only covers a single module, Axiom hasn’t been shy about their plans going forward. Once that first module is installed and operational, they plan on getting NASA approval to launch several new modules branching off of it. Ultimately, they hope that their “wing” of the ISS can be detached and become its own independent commercial station by the end of the decade.

Read the full article at https://bit.ly/39tsc6V

[ANS thanks Hackaday for the above information]

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towards Keeping Amateur Radio in Space
https://www.zazzle.com/amsat_gear

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AMSAT will be supporting the University of Arizona's K7UAZ radio club during the ScienceCity science fair on 14-15 March 2020 (a Saturday and Sunday). ScienceCity will be on the University of Arizona campus in Tucson, Arizona. This science fair is supported by several organizations at the university, and runs in conjunction with the Tucson Festival of Books that will also take place that weekend. More information about ScienceCity is available at:
http://sciencecity.arizona.edu/

Information about the K7UAZ radio club is available at:
http://k7uaz.com/

The K7UAZ radio club will have a booth in the "Science of Everyday Life" area at ScienceCity. This booth will showcase different facets of amateur radio, including amateur satellites. WD9EWK, and possibly other call signs, should be heard during demonstrations of satellite operating taking place at ScienceCity. If you hear us, please call and be a part of the demonstrations. The University of Arizona campus is in grid DM42, in Arizona's Pima County. QSLing will be determined by the call sign used for QSOs. WD9EWK will upload to Logbook of the World, and will be happy to send QSL cards on request (please e-mail Patrick the QSO details - no card or SASE is required to get a card). K7UAZ will confirm QSOs by QSL card, following instructions posted on QRZ.com.

During the weekend, the @WD9EWK Twitter account will be used to post updates from ScienceCity. If you do not use Twitter, you can view these updates in a web browser without having a Twitter account at:
http://twitter.com/WD9EWK

[ANS thanks Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK, AMSAT Board Member, for the above information]

Hamfests, Conventions, Maker Faires, and Other Events

AMSAT Ambassadors provide presentations, demonstrate communicating through amateur satellites, and host information tables at club meetings, hamfests, conventions, maker faires, and other events.

Current schedule:

March 14-15, 2020, Science City on University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
(see above)
March 21, 2020, Midwinter Madness Hamfest, Buffalo, MN
March 21, 2020, Scottsdale Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Scottsdale, AZ
March 28, 2020, Tucson Spring Hamfest, Tucson, AZ
March 29, 2020, Vienna Wireless Winterfest, Annandale, VA
May 2, 2020, Cochise Amateur Radio Assoc. Hamfest, Sierra Vista, AZ
May 8-9, 2020 Prescott Hamfest, Prescott, AZ
May 15-17, Hamvention, Xenia, OH
June 12-13, 2020, Ham-Con, Plano, TX

[ANS thanks Robert Bankston, KE4AL, AMSAT VP-User Services for the above information.]

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Space Station launched at 0449 GMT Saturday from Cape Canaveral’s Complex 40 launch pad. The mission carrying, as a primary payload, the Interoperable Radio System (IORS). The IORS is the foundational element of the ARISS next-generation radio system on ISS. If all goes according to plan, the Dragon cargo capsule will dock with the space station on Monday, 9 March.
(ANS thanks SpaceflightNow for the above information)

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In addition to regular membership, AMSAT offers membership in the President's Club. Members of the President's Club, as sustaining donors to AMSAT Project Funds, will be eligible to receive additional benefits. Application forms are available from the AMSAT Office.

Primary and secondary school students are eligible for membership at one-half the standard yearly rate. Post-secondary school students enrolled in at least half time status shall be eligible for the student rate for a maximum of 6 post-secondary years in this status. Contact Martha at the AMSAT Office for additional student membership information.

73 and Remember to help keep amateur radio in space,
This week's ANS Editor,
Casey Tucker, KI7UNJ
ki7unj at amsat dot org